

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY
PCT
INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT
(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

REC'D 28 AUG 2001	
WIPO	PCT

Applicant's or agent's file reference PCT/US00/20522	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/US00/27056	International filing date (day/month/year) 29 SEPTEMBER 2000	Priority date (day/month/year) 04 OCTOBER 1999
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC Please See Supplemental Sheet.		
Applicant MERCK & CO. INC.		

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36. This REPORT consists of a total of <u>5</u> sheets. <p><input type="checkbox"/> This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority. (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).</p> <p>These annexes consist of a total of <u>0</u> sheets.</p> This report contains indications relating to the following items: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Basis of the report II <input type="checkbox"/> Priority III <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-establishment of report with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability IV <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of unity of invention V <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability, citations and explanations supporting such statement VI <input type="checkbox"/> Certain documents cited VII <input type="checkbox"/> Certain defects in the international application VIII <input type="checkbox"/> Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 10 APRIL 2001	Date of completion of this report 28 JULY 2001
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/US Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks Box PCT Washington, D.C. 20231	Authorized officer S. DEVI, Ph.D. Telephone No. (703) 508-0196
Facsimile No. (703) 505-3250	

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

PCT/JS00/27056

I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the elements of the international application:*

 the international application as originally filed the description:pages 1-12 _____, as originally filed
pages NONE _____, filed with the demand
pages NONE _____, filed with the letter of _____ the claims:pages 13-15 _____, as originally filed
pages NONE _____, as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19
pages NONE _____, filed with the demand
pages NONE _____, filed with the letter of _____ the drawings:pages 1 _____, as originally filed
pages NONE _____, filed with the demand
pages NONE _____, filed with the letter of _____ the sequence listing part of the description:pages 1-2 _____, as originally filed
pages NONE _____, filed with the demand
pages NONE _____, filed with the letter of _____

2. With regard to the language, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language _____ which is:

 the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 23.1(b)). the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)). the language of the translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

 contained in the international application in printed form. filed together with the international application in computer readable form. furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form. furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form. The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished. The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of: the description, pages NONE the claims, Nos. NONE the drawings, sheets/fig NONE5. This report has been drawn as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).**

* Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17).

**Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.

III. Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability

1. The questions whether the claimed invention appears to be novel, to involve an inventive step (to be non obvious), or to be industrially applicable have not been and will not be examined in respect of:

the entire international application.

claims Nos. 5, 10 AND 11-16

because:

the said international application, or the said claim Nos. _ relate to the following subject matter which does not require international preliminary examination (*specify*).

the description, claims or drawings (*indicate particular elements below*) or said claims Nos. _ are so unclear that no meaningful opinion could be formed (*specify*).

the claims, or said claims Nos. _ are so inadequately supported by the description that no meaningful opinion could be formed.

no international search report has been established for said claims Nos. 5, 10 AND 11-16.

2. A meaningful international preliminary examination cannot be carried out due to the failure of the nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence listing to comply with the standard provided for in Annex C of the Administrative Instructions:

the written form has not been furnished or does not comply with the standard.

the computer readable form has not been furnished or does not comply with the standard.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US96/27056

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability, citations and explanations supporting such statement**1. statement**

Novelty (N)	Claims	NONE	YES
	Claims	1-4 and 6-9	NO
Inventive Step (IS)	Claims	NONE	YES
	Claims	1-4 and 6-9	NO
Industrial Applicability (IA)	Claims	1-4 and 6-9	YES
	Claims	NONE	NO

2. citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)

Claims 1-4 and 6-9 lack novelty under PCT Article 33(2) as being anticipated by Astra Aktiebolag (WO 96/40893).

Astra Aktiebolag discloses a polynucleotide having stretches of identity with the instantly claimed polynucleotide of SEQ ID NO: 1 and is therefore expected to hybridize with the polynucleotide of the instant invention. Astra Aktiebolag also discloses host cells comprising the polynucleotide.

————— NEW CITATIONS ————
NONE

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US00/27056

Supplemental Box

(To be used when the space in any of the preceding boxes is not sufficient)

Sheet 10

Continuation of: Boxes I - VIII

CLASSIFICATION:

The International Patent Classification (IPC) and/or the National classification are as listed below:

IPC(7): C07H 21/04; C12P 21/06, C12N 15/09, 15/00. and US Cl.: 536/23.1, 23.9; 435/71.1, 69.1, 320.1, 69.3.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US00/27056

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) :C07H 21/04; C12P 21/06, C12N 15/09, 15/00

US CL :536/23.1, 23.9; 435/71.1, 69.1, 320.1, 69.3.

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 536/23.1, 23.9; 435/71.1, 69.1, 320.1, 69.3.

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

MEDLINE, DIALOG, EMBASE, BIOSIS, WEST, SEQUENCE databases.

SEQ ID NO: 1, MraY, Pseudomonas, inventors' name.

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	WO 96/40893 A1 (<i>ASTRA AKTIEBOLAG</i>) 19 December 1996, see entire document.	1-4 and 6-9
X, P	WO 99/61050 A1 (<i>EL-SHERBEINI</i>) 02 December 1999, see entire document.	1-4 and 6-9
A	EP 0 897 007 A2 (<i>SMITKLINE BEECHAM CORPORATION</i>) 17 February 1999, see entire document.	1-4 and 6-9

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. See patent family annex.

- Special categories of cited documents:	"T"	later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance		
"E" earlier document published on or after the international filing date	"X"	document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	"Y"	document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	"&"	document member of the same patent family
"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed		

Date of the actual completion of the international search

28 NOVEMBER 2000

Date of mailing of the international search report

29 DEC 2000

Name and mailing address of the ISA/US
Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Box PCT
Washington, D.C. 20231

Facsimile No. (703) 305-3230

Authorized officer

S. DEVI, Ph.D.

Telephone No. (703) 308-0194


DELA MAE COLLINS
PARALEGAL SPECIALIST
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 1600

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORTInternational application No.
PCT/US00/27056**Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)**

This international report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. Claims Nos.: because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

2. Claims Nos.: because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:

3. Claims Nos.: because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

Please See Extra Sheet.

1. As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.

2. As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.

3. As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:

4. No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.: 1-4 and 6-9

Remark on Protest

The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
 No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US00/27056

BOX II. OBSERVATIONS WHERE UNITY OF INVENTION WAS LACKING

This ISA found multiple inventions as follows:

This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1. In order for all inventions to be searched, the appropriate additional search fees must be paid.

Group I, claims 1-4 and 6-9, drawn to an isolated polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide having SEQ ID NO: 2, or that is complementary to the polynucleotide or that hybridizes with the polynucleotide, a cDNA, an expression vector and a host cell comprising the same.

Group II, claims 5 and 10, drawn to a process for expressing a MraY protein of *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*.

Group III, claims 11-14, a probe and a primer for the detection of polynucleotides encoding *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* MraY protein.

Group IV, claims 15 and 16, drawn to an isolated polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 and a cellular extract comprising the same.

The special technical feature of Invention I is an isolated polynucleotide that is complementary to the polynucleotide or that hybridizes with the polynucleotide of SEQ ID NO: 1. Invention II is drawn to a process for expressing a MraY protein of *Ps. aeruginosa* using the product of invention I. Although the first product of the invention and method of using the product is a permitted combination under PCT Rule 13.2, in the instant case, the special technical feature is already disclosed in the art, for instance, WO 98/18931 and therefore is not a unifying feature. Inventions III and IV are drawn to the second and third products respectively. Clearly, the special technical feature of inventions I through IV is not a unifying feature.

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

PCT

NOTIFICATION OF ELECTION

(PCT Rule 61.2)

Date of mailing (day/month/year)
30 July 2001 (30.07.01)

To:
Commissioner
US Department of Commerce
United States Patent and Trademark
Office, PCT
2011 South Clark Place Room
CP2/5C24
Arlington, VA 22202
ETATS-UNIS D'AMERIQUE
in its capacity as elected Office

International application No.
PCT/US00/27056

Applicant's or agent's file reference
PCT 20522

International filing date (day/month/year)
29 September 2000 (29.09.00)

Priority date (day/month/year)
04 October 1999 (04.10.99)

Applicant

EL-SHERBEINI, Mohamed et al

1. The designated Office is hereby notified of its election made:

in the demand filed with the International Preliminary Examining Authority on:

10 April 2001 (10.04.01)

in a notice effecting later election filed with the International Bureau on:

2. The election was

was not

made before the expiration of 19 months from the priority date or, where Rule 32 applies, within the time limit under Rule 32.2(b).

The International Bureau of WIPO
34, chemin des Colombettes
1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland

Facsimile No.: (41-22) 740.14.35

Authorized officer

Juan Cruz

Telephone No.: (41-22) 338.83.38